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Released: September 29, 2008

Vol. 28 No. 18

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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
AUGUST 2008**

Red meat production in **Colorado** during August 2008 totaled 180.7 million pounds, 8 percent above the 167.6 million pounds produced during August 2007 but 9 percent below the 198.3 million pounds produced during July of this year. Cattle kill during August was up slightly from the previous year to 209,000 head and the average live weight increased 16 pounds to 1,322 pounds per head. Hog slaughter, at 1,700 head, increased 13 percent from August 2007 and the average live weight increased 1 pound to 253. Accumulated red meat production for the first eight months of this year now totals 1.47 billion pounds, up 19 percent from the 1.23 billion pounds produced during the comparable period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.10 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.33 billion pounds produced in August 2007. Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.91 million head, down 7 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 9 percent above August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,200 head, up 21 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.27 million head, down 1 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 261 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.3 million pounds, was down 10 percent from August 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,700 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2008 commercial red meat production was 33.4 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

# AG UPDATE

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<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

**Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States**

Area and Species	Aug 2007	July 2008	Aug 2008	January-Aug	
				2007	2008
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado</b> .....	167.6	198.3	180.7	1,230.7	1,464.9
<b>United States</b> .....	4,325.7	4,251.6	4,097.4	31,844.2	33,392.1
Beef.....	2,450.6	2,372.7	2,268.5	17,592.7	17,909.8
Veal.....	10.3	12.3	11.2	96.3	92.3
Pork.....	1,850.0	1,852.9	1,804.4	14,033.6	15,273.8
Lamb & Mutton .....	14.8	13.7	13.3	121.7	116.3

**CATTLE ON FEED  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2008**

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in **Colorado** feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 770,000 head as of September 1, 2008. The latest inventory was up 3 percent from August 1, 2008, but down 9 percent from the 850,000 on feed on September 1, 2007. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 165,000 head of fed cattle during August 2008. This represented a 6 percent decrease from the July 2008 marketings, and an 11 percent decrease from the August marketings one year earlier. An estimated 190,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during August, up 73 percent from July 2008 placements and up 12 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in August, 8 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 11 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 26 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 55 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for August, at 5,000 head, was the same as last month and last year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.0 million head on September 1, 2008. The inventory was 3 percent below September 1, 2007 and 9 percent below September 1, 2006. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.06 million, 3 percent below 2007 and 10 percent below 2006. Net placements were 2.01 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000, 600-699 pounds were 410,000, 700-799 pounds were 566,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 720,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.88 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 9 percent below 2006. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 49,000 during August, 2 percent below 2007 and 17 percent below 2006.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots  
August 1 to September 1, 2007-2008**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Aug. 1	870	750	10,299	9,869
Placements During Aug.	170	190	2,119	2,061
< 600 pounds	25	15	490	365
600 - 699 Pounds	30	20	440	410
700 - 799 Pounds	40	50	549	566
800 Plus Pounds	75	105	640	720
Marketings During Aug.	185	165	2,066	1,884
Other Disap. During Aug.	5	5	50	49
On Feed September 1	850	770	10,302	9,997

**MILK PRODUCTION  
AUGUST 2008**

Milk production in Colorado during August 2008 totaled 251 million pounds, up 16 million pounds from the 235 million pounds produced during the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for August of this year was 130,000 head, up 11,000 head from August 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,930 pounds for August, 2 percent below the 1,975 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 14.5 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from August 2007. July revised production at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from July 2007. The July revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,717 pounds for August, 2 pounds below August 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 137,000 head more than August 2007, but 3,000 head less than July 2008.

**Milk Cows and Milk Production**

Item	Unit	2007	2008
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....	1,000 head	119	130
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u> .....	Lbs.	1,975	1,930
Production <u>2/</u> .....	Mil. Lbs.	235	251
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....	1,000 head	8,330	8,467
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u> .....	Lbs.	1,719	1,717
Production <u>2/</u> .....	Mil. Lbs.	14,323	14,539

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**CROP PRODUCTION  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2008**

**COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS**

The **corn** yield forecast is now estimated at 145.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels above last year's final yield, but 5 bushels below the August 1 forecast. The forecast for harvested acres was unchanged at 1,170,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from the area harvested for grain in 2007. Corn production is forecast at 169.65 million bushels, 13 percent more than last year's production.

The **sorghum** yield is forecast at 27.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the August 1 forecast, but 10.0 bushels below last year's crop. Growers are expected to harvest 180,000 acres, placing production at 4.9 million bushels, compared with 5.6 million bushels last year.

The **summer potato** yield forecast was unchanged from July 1 at 360 cwt per acre, up 10 cwt from last year's average yield. Growers are expected to harvest 4,000 acres, up 1,300 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is forecast at 1.4 million cwt., 495,000 cwt above last year's production. The **sugarbeet** yield is forecast at 27.0 tons per acre, up 3.0 tons from the August 1 forecast and 0.8 tons above last year's yield. Production is now forecast at 772,000 tons from 28,600 harvested acres, down from last year's 765,000 tons from 29,200 acres.

**UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS**

**Corn** production is forecast at 12.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 152.3 bushels per acre, down 2.7 bushels from August but 1.2 bushels above last year. If realized, yield will be the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production will be the second largest, behind last year. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across the northern and eastern Corn Belt and the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys where the lack of rainfall during August reduced soil moisture supplies and stressed the crop. Yield prospects also decreased across much of the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Plains as dry weather during August eliminated soil moisture surpluses.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 426 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month but down 16 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 6.44 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 5 percent from 2007. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 66.1 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last month but down 8.1 bushels from last year. In Kansas, the top producing State, yield is expected to average 76 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month but down 4 bushels from last year. In Texas, the second leading State, yields are expected to average 52 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but 14 bushels below last year.

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**Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2007-2008**

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
<b>Colorado:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	1,200	1,300	1,060	1,170	Bu.	142.0	145.0	150,520	169,650
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	220	230	150	180	Bu.	37.0	27.0	5,550	4,860
All Wheat .....	2,520	2,190	2,369	2,038	Bu.	40.3	5/	95,520	5/
Winter Wheat .....	2,500	2,150	2,350	2,000	Bu.	40.0	29.0	94,000	58,000
Spring Wheat.....	20.0	40.0	19.0	38	Bu.	80.0	5/	1,520	5/
Oats .....	75	45	10	10	Bu.	80.0	5/	800	5/
Barley.....	60	80	58	78	Bu.	125.0	120.0	7,250	9,360
Proso Millet.....	270	330	260.0	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	8,580	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	1,550	1,580	Tons	2.83	2.65	4,385	4,180
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	800	830	Tons	3.70	3.50	2,960	2,905
Other Hay.....	...	...	750	750	Tons	1.90	1.70	1,425	1,275
Sugarbeets .....	32.0	34.8	29.2	28.6	Tons	26.2	27.0	765	772
Dry edible beans.....	48.0	55.0	46.0	51.0	Cwt.	1,600	2,000	736	1,020
Sunflowers, All .....	119.0	170.0	113.0	158.0	Lbs.	1,202	6/	135,800	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	105.0	145.0	100.0	135.0	Lbs.	1,150	6/	115,000	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil .....	14.0	25.0	13.0	23.0	Lbs.	1,600	6/	20,800	6/
All potatoes .....	62.2	61.4	61.9	60.7	Cwt.	355	7/	21,926	7/
Summer potatoes .....	3.0	4.4	2.7	4.0	Cwt.	350	360	945	1,440
Fall potatoes .....	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.7	Cwt.	355	7/	20,981	7/
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	13,000	15,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	13.0	15.0
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1.7	1.5
<b>United States:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	93,600.0	86,977.0	86,542.0	79,290.0	Bu.	151.1	152.3	13,073,893	12,072,365
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	7,718	7,301.0	6,805.0	6,442.0	Bu.	74.2	66.1	504,993	425,572
All Wheat <u>2/</u> .....	60,433	63,457	51,011.0	56,586.0	Bu.	40.5	43.5	2,066,722	2,462,418
Winter Wheat .....	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	Bu.	42.2	46.6	1,515,989	1,874,857
Spring Wheat.....	13,297	14,197	12,947	13,751	Bu.	37.0	36.4	479,047	500,988
Oats .....	3,760	3,467	1,505	1,443	Bu.	60.9	62.3	91,599	89,897
Barley.....	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	Bu.	60.4	59.9	211,825	217,976
Rye .....	1,376	1,190	289	266	Bu.	27.4	5/	7,914	5/
Proso Millet.....	570	605	515	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	16,615	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	61,625	60,439	Tons	2.44	2.45	150,304	147,955
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	21,670	20,778	Tons	3.35	3.41	72,575	70,944
Other Hay.....	...	...	39,955	39,661	Tons	1.95	1.94	77,729	77,011
Sugarbeets .....	1,268.8	1,110.1	1,246.8	1,057.7	Tons	25.6	24.7	31,912	26,089
Dry edible beans.....	1,526.9	1,401.9	1,478.7	1,353.6	Cwt.	1,716	1,786	25,371	24,172
Sunflowers, All .....	2,068.0	2,164.0	2,009.5	2,062.5	Lbs.	1,437	6/	2,888,555	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	1,764	1,850	1,717	1,768	Lbs.	1,454	6/	2,496,970	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil .....	304.0	314.0	292.5	294.5	Lbs.	1,339	6/	391,585	6/
All potatoes <u>3/</u> .....	1,148.8	1,057.8	1,129.7	1,041.1	Cwt.	396	7/	446,807	7/
Summer potatoes .....	53.7	48.5	51.2	46.2	Cwt.	332	324	16,997	14,946
Fall potatoes .....	1,010.8	929.1	996.8	916.2	Cwt.	409	7/	407,517	7/
Soybeans .....	63,631	74,783	62,820	73,341	Bu.	41.2	40.0	2,585,207	2,933,888
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,113,900	9,165,200
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,128.7	1,093.9
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	873.0	821.8

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Jan. 2009.  
5/ September 30, 2008. 6/ October 10, 2008. 7/ November 10, 2008.

(Continued from page 2)

**Summer Potatoes** production is forecast at 14.9 million cwt, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 12 percent from 2007. Harvested acres are estimated at 46,200 acres, 2 percent above the July forecast but 10 percent below last year. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage on record. Average yield is forecast at 324 cwt per acre, up 3 cwt from July but down 8 cwt from 2007. Colorado's growing conditions were reported as good with harvest starting later than normal due to delayed planting and early hail damage.

**Sugarbeets** production in 2008 is forecast at 26.1 million tons, down 3 percent from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year. Production forecasts are down from last year in all estimating States except Colorado. Growers expect to harvest 1.06 million acres in 2008, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 15 percent from last year. The yield forecast, at 24.7 tons per acre, is up 0.6 ton from August but down 0.9 ton from 2007. Yield expectations are higher than last month in all States except North Dakota and Washington.

### **COLD STORAGE AUGUST 31, 2008**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on August 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, cheese, and pork. Butter stocks were down 10 percent from last month and down 15 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up slightly from the previous month but down 2 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 5 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 45 percent from last month but up 49 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on August 31, 2008 were up 2 percent from the previous month and up 17 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 2 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 1 percent from last month and up 19 percent from August 31, 2007.

### **Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Aug 31, 2007	July 30, 2008	Aug 31, 2008
	<b>1,000 Pounds</b>		
Butter .....	260,879	246,132	221,165
Cheese, total natural .....	846,224	902,797	895,039
Eggs, frozen .....	18,485	21,097	20,060
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,184,884	1,362,049	1,382,851
Chicken .....	652,403	738,872	754,756
Turkey .....	524,386	620,692	626,103
Fruits, frozen .....	1,226,781	1,026,798	1,109,172
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,069,278	1,751,392	1,634,547
Vegetables, total frozen .....	1,954,481	1,641,895	2,051,030
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,000,354	1,107,825	1,151,652
Meats, total red .....	958,733	939,752	943,664
Beef, total frozen .....	480,944	423,913	433,971
Pork, total frozen .....	458,252	491,395	482,763

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

### **UPCOMING REPORTS**

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Sept. 26 - Hogs and Pigs
- Sept. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- Sept. 30 - Grain Stocks
- Sept. 30 - Small Grains Summary
- Oct. 3 - Vegetables
- Oct. 10 - Crop Production
- Oct. 17 - Milk Production
- Oct. 17 - Cattle on Feed
- Oct. 21 - Chickens and Eggs
- Oct. 22 - Cold Storage
- Oct. 24 - Livestock Slaughter

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